

REMARKS

The final Office action mailed November 14, 2006 has been received and reviewed. All claims currently under consideration stand either objected to or rejected. The application is to be amended as previously set forth in an effort to conform more closely to U.S. practice. All amendments and claim cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A. 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite. Applicants have canceled claim 2, and amended the remaining claims per the Examiner's suggestions in an effort to overcome the rejections, and in view of these amendments, applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Specifically,

"[i]n claim 1, the preamble of the claim [was thought] confusing, and requires further amendments to improve the clarity of the claim. For example, the term 'ABIN' should be placed in front of the full definition of the term, for the clarity purposes. Further, the 'NF-KB' should be uniform with the rest of the claims since other claims refer to NF-κB.

Further, in claim 1, line 9, the phrase 'said protein' should be replaced with 'the SEQ ID NO:9' for the clarity purposes."

(Office action, page 2).

Applicants have endeavored to adopt the Examiner's suggestions in their proposed amendments of claims 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Claim 2 was considered redundant with claim 1. Applicants have canceled claim 2.

The Office action continued:

"Further, in the instant claims, Applicants refer to different proteins. For example, in claim 1 Applicants refer to 'A20,' and in claim 4 Applicants refer to 'A20 polypeptide' and 'said protein,' therefore the claims should be amended to keep the same terms uniformly designated/named."

(Office action, page 3).

Applicants have attempted to adopt the Examiner's suggestions in their proposed amendments of claim 4.

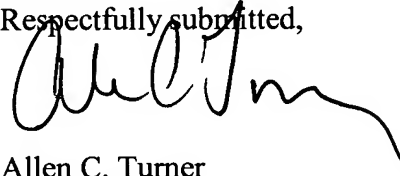
In view of the foregoing amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome, and kindly request that the rejections be withdrawn.

B. 37 C.F.R. § 1.116:

The foregoing amendments should be entered as they merely cancel claims, adopt examiner suggestions, remove issues for appeal (*e.g.*, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112), and should place the application into condition for allowance.

If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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